

April 25, 2013

Weekly Views

A surprise gift for Indiana Governor Michael Pence came courtesy of the Indiana Department of Correction and the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility. A custom quilt, made by offenders in the WVCF PLUS (Purposeful Living Units Serve) Unit was presented to the Governor by Commissioner Lemmon, Deputy Commissioner of Operations Jim Basinger and Superintendent Richard Brown. The quilt features his Alma Maters and other remembrances of his public service to the State of Indiana. (see photo below).

Join Team DOC at the Prison Greyhounds dog walk on Sunday, May 19 in downtown Indianapolis. To register,

donate, or order a super-cute Team DOC t-shirt, please contact Lisa Salinas at lsalinas@idoc.IN.gov or 317-233-5541.

The Putnamville Correctional Facility hosted facility tours for staff from Marion County Community Corrections, Monroe County Prosecutors Office and criminology students from Vincennes University. The guests overwhelmingly expressed highlights of the tour as being the Prison Greyhound program and the Security Threat Group presentation by Darrin Chaney and J.R. Smith. All expressed their appreciation to Superintendent Stanley Knight for the opportunity.



Offenders and staff at the Pendleton Correctional Facility forged a partnership with Prevent Child Abuse America and Prevent Child Abuse Indiana, a Division of the Villages, in conjunction with Child Abuse Prevention Month. Fund raising activities at the facility resulted in over \$4,000 being raised that was distributed evenly to both organizations. A check presentation was conducted in the facility Chapel which included attendance by Commissioner Lemmon and members of his Executive Staff.

The Indianapolis Parole District#3 Office joined Marion County Sheriff's Department, Sex and Violent Offender Unit and Warrants Teams coupled with other representation of neighboring local law enforcement agencies in a pre-dawn, weekend initiative targeted at identifying sex offenders in non-compliance with registration responsibilities residing in "Operation: Tent-Cities," within multiple locations within Indianapolis. The results included contacts with 125 persons, four collateral arrests on outstanding warrants, and one arrest for multiple counts of Failure to Register as a Sex Offender, C-Felony, indicating a previous conviction for an offense of this same type. This collaborative activity was funded by Project COPS Grant monies awarded to Marion County Sheriff's Department for registry enforcement and included no violations or arrests for any persons under parole supervision.

Staff from Rockville, RDC, Pendleton Juvenile, Madison Juvenile, Putnamville and Central Office gathered with thousands of runners and walkers in a sea of pink at Military Park in downtown Indianapolis for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. To date, IDOC staff have raised over \$1,100 to benefit the Central Indiana Susan G. Komen Foundation for breast cancer research. (see photos left.)

The sound of song, testimonies, and joy filled the chapel at the Correctional Industrial Facility when the Anderson Mt. Zion Men's Choir and their guests provided a concert for about 40 offenders. The group inspired the offenders with their hand-clapping southern style gospel music. Mr. M.L. Allen and his guitar, which he has appropriately named Magic, provided excellent background for most of the songs. The group wowed the offenders with renditions of favorites like; What a Friend I have in Jesus, Victory is Mine, Old Time Religion and Bound for Mt. Zion. The group has been touring throughout Indiana, offering spiritual guidance to offenders at numerous facilities for approximately 20 years. Per Deacon Warner, "We are impressed and inspired by the greetings and participation we get from the offenders."

Miami Correctional Facility hosted two Straight Talk programs and a facility tour with High School and College students from Western High School and University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne. Students heard from three offenders about life in prison and those in college studying criminology were also taken on a tour of the facility.

The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a graduation for students of the PLUS unit. This is the unit's 25th graduation ceremony. A celebration was held in the facility Chapel with staff, students, parents and staff members in attendance. Each graduating student completed over 100 hours of PLUS programming and as a group accumulated 250 hours of community service during the 13 week program. The unit also held fundraisers and were able to donate \$250 to the Emmaus Mission Center, \$250 to Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence and \$250 to the local Big Brothers/Big Sisters Chapter.

Future Soldiers students participated in a balloon ceremony for Crime Victim's Awareness Week. Students read apology letters to individuals affected by their crimes, including family members and the community. At the conclusion of the ceremony, students released balloons that representing letting go of the past and aspiring for a brighter future.

